

The Times Dispatch

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By Times Dispatch Carrier Delivery Service in Richmond (and suburbs) and Petersburg... Daily except Sundays... Sunday only... Extraordinary... December 13, 1913.

NEW ENGLAND'S RURAL DECLINE.

Nowhere else in the nation has the rate of rural population away from the farms been so marked or so deplorable as in New England. The figures of the last census prove this condition beyond all dispute.

There are twelve entire counties in New England which seventy years ago possessed a population of more than 100,000. Today only three of them remain.

Twelve Connecticut River Valley towns in New Hampshire suffered heavy losses as did two across the line in Massachusetts.

Five Vermont counties had the same experience. The rural population in that State shows a constantly decreasing ratio.

Although the drift of rural population to the towns and cities is too great in the South, we have reason to believe that it is small by comparison with the condition in New England.

One rural school, instead of being the center of good health, are the foci of infection. Bad ventilation within the buildings, weak and unwholesome food, and the presence of vermin.

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WHERE EXPERT SERVICE WOULD COUNT.

The City Water Department files a request for \$161,723, with which to operate its plant during the next twelve months, and to make necessary improvements.

The City Gas Department estimates that it will need \$223,419 for the coming fiscal year.

These statements may be correct to the dollar. They may cover nothing that should not be expended. They may be prepared with the greatest foresight and the best possible judgment.

But does the city know them to be all that we have indicated they may be? Granting that they are prepared by men who are above reproach and are laboring with their full ability for the best interests of the city, do these statements represent that technical and expert opinion the city needs?

Is not this an illustration of the great service that would be rendered by experts at the Gas and the Water Works?

Could any lesson be plainer?

KEEP AN EYE ON ALABAMA.

The most interesting event on the political horizon is the coming general election in Alabama. Oscar Underwood and Richmond Pearson Hobson are the rival candidates, and they have already advertised their differences in an acrimonious discussion on the floor of the House.

This contest will attract the attention of the nation, not only because of the prominence of the two men, but because the campaign methods they are employing will give the country a very definite lesson on the Alabama vote.

Mr. Hobson has nothing to commend him save a doubtful liberalism and a very pronounced prohibition policy. Whatever reputation he may have gained from the "Meridian" episode was blown away during his memorable "triumphant tour" possessed by a winning eloquence, of a certain claptrap style, he is making a very emotional appeal to Alabama voters.

The voters of Alabama will have opportunity of choosing between the ideals of solid statesmanship and the platitudes of opportunism. It will be interesting to know their choice.

MORE SANITARY SCHOOLS.

A slender blow against faulty educational methods has seldom been struck in Virginia than that just delivered by the State Department of Public Instruction. Heretofore, announces the board of education, State funds have been expended which are not provided with sanitary conveniences for the pupils.

To those whose children attend well-ventilated city schools or any modern high school rising in every quarter of the Commonwealth, the question of sanitation seems unimportant. But to those who are familiar with the "old style" one-room schools of rural Virginia, this seems up as the greatest single defect of our educational system.

The facts are too distressing to be stated in a paper read by all members of the family, but the result of our investigation and the efficiency of our rural schools is reduced at least 20 per cent by the inhuman insanitation that prevails.

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TYPICALLY WILSONIAN.

All doubt as to the fate of the currency bill seems settled. It is announced with a positiveness admitting of no dispute that the bill will be passed in substantially its present form and approved by the President before the Christmas vacation.

We have studied the comments of Washington correspondents and have asked of friends in a position to know the reason for this certainty. In every instance the answer is the same—Wilson has been at work.

From all accounts, it has only been within the last month that the President has found time to discuss the currency bill with members of the upper house. But during this time he has labored hard, and in a way peculiarly his own. We are told that instead of drawing a brace of verbal revolvers and parading the corridors of the Capitol, threatening the political life of those who oppose him, he has proceeded in an entirely different way.

Reasoning that the men who differed from him are as honest as himself and as anxious as he to place our currency on a sound, solvent basis, he has summoned them one by one to the White House and has reasoned the issue with them.

Nor has he, we are advised, chosen for conference only the leaders of his own party. As the President of the United States and not of the united Democrats, he has not hesitated to call in those who were most outspoken in their opposition to the policy of his party. And his logic, it is said, has silenced many critics and won some doubters.

This skillful use as an epoch in our political history worthy of more than passing note. For the first time in our recollection, we have a President who uses not the lash of patronage, but the cold logic of conviction. He wins his victories not as some of his predecessors, by presuming to read from the party those who oppose him, but by meeting honest objections with honest answers. The country will be the happier if his rule becomes universal.

THE PROPOSED SYSTEM OF GAME CONSERVATION.

A measure which, if enacted, would establish an adequate system of preservation of game and protection of bird life in Virginia, is to be presented to the General Assembly of 1914 by Delegate Hugh A. White of Rockbridge, in the House, and by Senator John M. Hart of Roanoke, in the upper legislative chamber.

The proposed law provides that the owner of land and his family may hunt upon his own land without a license. A tenant may hunt upon the land he occupies or leases.

A person desiring to hunt on land other than his own within the county of which he is a resident is to pay a hunting license of \$1 per year.

A person who desires to hunt outside of his county and anywhere in the State is to pay a license of \$3. Non-residents must pay annual licenses at a cost of \$10 each.

No person, although possessed of a license, can hunt upon the land of another without the owner's consent. Prosecutions for violation of this provision are to be instituted by the wardens so that landowners need not complain of trespassers and may avoid making enemies.

The game birds are to be swans, geese, brant, river and sea ducks, mallards, quail, snipe, gallinules, shore birds, plovers, surf birds, snipe, woodcock, sandpipers, tatters, wilets and curlews, wild turkeys, grouse, pheasant, quail, turtle or mourning doves.

No protection is supplied for English or European house sparrows, blackbirds, European starlings, cooper's hawk, chicken hawk or any member of the hawk family, owls, except screech owl and crows.

The ordinary closed seasons are prescribed with the further provision that the supervisors may shorten the seasons if they see fit.

The law would be enforced by a game commissioner, to be appointed by the Governor. The game commissioner would appoint a sufficient number of wardens and deputies to enforce the law throughout the Commonwealth, and would be empowered to disqualify persons for unsatisfactory service. The entire compensation of all the officers created under the White-Hart measure would be derived solely from the hunting license fees collected.

The system here outlined is altogether reasonable. It is in the interest of the farmer more than anyone else, because it protects him from the depredations of the pothunter, prevents the extermination of the insectivorous birds which safeguard his crop, and increases his food resources.

It is in the interest of the Commonwealth, because it would cause the multiplication of game and birds and stop the reckless slaughter, which threatens to reduce these valuable natural assets to nothing. The White-Hart measure ought to be enacted without delay, because it is founded upon a sound and far-sighted policy of wise conservation.

The joyous days have come, the gladdest of the year, hog-killing time. Thousands of Virginians will soon enter the paradise of the woods, where tables groaning with hams are about to go out of this winter under a delectable burden of liver-pudding, ome, sage-throut sauce, back-lone, and that noblest of produce products, the Imperial spareribs.

Half the members of the Maryland Governor's staff are generals. Why not promote all staff colonels everywhere to the higher rank in recognition of their valorous incursions deputed?

The "hooded shirt" waves are respectfully requested to note that the Jug Lad who has twice captured the baseball team and who will next year lead the football team of Washington and Lee is Edward A. Donahue, of Essexville, Mass.

When Richmond College moves to its new home it is to be hoped that the students so that they may foregather in social and cultural groups to form a more perfect environmental school.

WHAT WAS NEWS FIFTY YEARS AGO

Reprinted from This Newspaper.

No More Delinquencies.

Robert Ould, Confederate agent of exchange, on the 11th inst. called the United States government that the Confederate government has determined to put an end to the reception of delinquencies by Yankee prisoners from their friends in the North, because this matter has been the cause of so much misrepresentation and vilification of the Confederate government.

Legislation.

In the House of Representatives was adopted recommending the purchase of one or more of the coal mines in the vicinity of Richmond to form a part of the penitentiary, where convicts can be employed in the North, because this matter has been the cause of so much misrepresentation and vilification of the Confederate government.

Congress.

The special committee on Currency and Taxation consists of Boyce, of South Carolina; Conrad, of Louisiana; Jones, of Tennessee; Baldwin and Lyons, of Virginia; Bridges, of North Carolina; and the Hon. Mr. Sherman, of South Carolina, offered in the House a resolution to inquire into the expediency of requiring all departmental appointments to be made from the United States and persons within the conscript age physically disabled and citizens over the conscript age.

Can't Wave Handkerchiefs.

The United States military authorities in Nashville have issued an order informing the citizens that further waving of handkerchiefs at Confederate prisoners in the streets will be punished by imprisonment.

To Be Hanged.

A. E. Coffman, who was tried by a court martial at Harpersburg for plotting and assisting Confederate deserters to escape and with communicating information to the enemy, has been sentenced to be hanged next Friday.

From the North.

President Lincoln has sent his annual message to Congress accompanied by a proclamation offering pardon to all enemies of the Union who are ready now to swear allegiance to it. He suggests that the rebellious States may return to the Union through the door of Congress. He declares that he will not retract or modify the emancipation proclamation.

The steamer Chesapeake left New York Saturday evening for Portland, Maine. Twenty miles north of Cape Cod, it was captured by sixteen Confederates in disguise, who had taken passage on her. The steamer after an earnest struggle, the vessel and cargo is worth \$100,000.

The news from the Army of the Potomac indicates that General Pleasanton will be promoted to Major-General. A bill has been introduced into Congress to make Grant a lieutenant-general.

From Fort Sumter.

Two men were killed and thirty wounded on the 11th inst.

Lives in Atlanta.

Colonel Lee, one of President Davis's aids, has arrived in Atlanta supposedly to report on the condition of affairs in the State.

From East Tennessee.

The news from the front is decidedly encouraging. The cavalry is still at Morristown. The enemy is retiring to the Tennessee River.

Senatorial Control of the Cabinet.

Mr. Johnson, of Arkansas, introduced in the Senate Thursday a bill to provide that the term of office of Cabinet members be the same as that of a member of the House of Representatives, but that the same officer may be reappointed or appointed for a number of terms.

Advertisement.

Look out for Christmas and get your doll baby heads for your children. They are the best and most beautiful.

"The Progress of Socialism."

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: I do not understand the meaning of the term "progressive democracy" other than to mean a man who is very right and very wrong.

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GREATEST MOMENTS IN HISTORY.



BOWLING - HIS FIRST 200 SCORE

Views of the Virginia Editors

Should Enact a Real Primary Law. Additional interest has been attached to the question of legalized primaries by that portion of President Wilson's message...

I would, however, denounce the soft impeachment that men "reared in the life of the army" who will not give up their life and property for a constitutional spirit of self-sacrifice and the highest of the educational interest of the country.

The bill here introduced in the State would be hailed with more general satisfaction than any other measure. Knowing so well the local frame of mind upon this question, and its consistently wise and unimpaired judgment, it is not surprising to learn that the Buchanan News holds that for the integrity of the State, Lynchburg is largely responsible.

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WE issue Foreign Exchange, Letters of Credit and Travelers' Checks, available throughout the civilized world. Ask our officers. CAPITAL AND SURPLUS, \$1,000,000.00. National State and City Bank